

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, March 06, 2014
TIME: 1:30 pm or Upon Adjournment
PLACE: Room EW42
MEMBERS: Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Boyle, Representative(s) Bolz, McMillan, Batt, Bell, Agidius, Dayley, Miller, Romrell, Stevenson, VanOrden, Pence, Erpelding
**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Reps. Boyle, Agidius
GUESTS: Patrick Kole, IPC; Frank Muir, IPC; Karianne Fallow, IDPC; Tom Dorsey, IDPC; Bob Naerebout, IDA

Chairman Andrus called the meeting to order at 3:19 p.m.

Frank Muir, President and CEO, Idaho Potato Commission, presented the annual report. He said 344,000 acres were harvested last year, an increase of 20,000 acres from the previous year. He said there were record yields and as a result there was an increase in spending and the potato tax was \$366,000. He said there was \$500,000 grant money received for Research and Education to assist with the eradication of Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN).

In response to a committee question regarding the future of the PCN program, **Mr. Muir** said they are getting good responses to continue the PCN program with money secured to assist with that.

Karianne Fallow, CEO, and **Tom Dorsey**, Chairman, Idaho Dairy Products Commission, presented the annual report. They said there are 549,410 milk cows, 536 dairy operations and 13.4 billion pounds of milk produced in Idaho and Idaho is ranked number four in the nation in milk production. They said milk sales maintained a downward trend while cheese sustained growth in 2013 and yogurt trends are what was expected with greek yogurt up 50%. They said dairy export value on pace to approach \$6.7 billion, with volume representing nearly 16% of total US milk solids produced. They said the top challenges facing the dairy industry in the future are milk prices, public perception of dairy and government regulation. They said the new vision objectives are to increase demand of milk and milk products; advocate programs that enhance and protect the economic security of the dairy industry; cooperate and coordinate with other dairy organizations to promote the sale and consumption of products; and integrate advertising, sales promotions, dairy image and nutrition education activities.

Chairman Andrus turned the gavel over to **Rep. Bolz**.

Bob Naerebout, Executive Director, Idaho Dairymen's Association (IDA), presented the annual report. He said from 2007-2012, IDA along with the Idaho Dairy Environmental Action League (IDEAL) awarded combined grants of \$1,112,589 for research. Also, during that time, IDA provided the USDA Agricultural Research Service in Kimberly, ID \$396,583. He said dairy farmers have a long heritage as responsible stewards of the land, air, water and the animals in their care and this has helped propel the industry's long-term success and establish industry-wide collaborations on sustainability.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chair

Angela Sandoval
Secretary